

SPOKE

Conestoga College, Kitchener

October 23, 2000

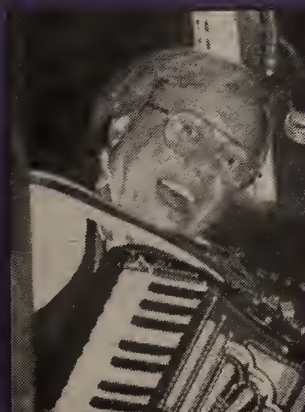
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DSA officially becomes CSI

By Petra Lampert

The Doon Student Association, acting as Conestoga Students Incorporated, has collected the required number of student votes to approve its name change.

The student association collected 2,276 proxies, surpassing the required 51 per cent of the student membership it needed in order to pass the name change.

As of Oct. 6, full-time enrollment was 4,492 and the association had to collect 2,248 votes.

Brad Whiteford, CSI vice-president of operations, said on Oct. 11, the association obtained the minimum number of proxies that they were legally required to obtain.

"We have completed the task (as) we have been told by law and now it's a paperwork process," he said. "In the next two or three weeks the name change will be official."

Whiteford said he's happy the student association has collected the required number of votes needed to pass the name change.

"It's been an extremely large task, but the grunt work is now done," said Whiteford. "I'd like to thank all of the people who have helped

me, BOD members, the executive, volunteers, students and faculty."

Oct. 2 was the original deadline to collect the minimum number of votes, but the CSI was short 200 votes and opted to have each BOD member collect an additional 10 proxies.

At the Oct. 11 BOD meeting, the executive reconvened the meeting from Oct. 2 and passed the motion to accept the new name and the new bylaw changes.

The proxy form had two sections students were to vote on. The first section outlined the name change from DSA to CSI, while the second section included changes to bylaws.

Bylaw amendments included reducing the number of BOD members to 50, changing the majority vote from half plus one to two-thirds of board members, and changing the written notice of upcoming meetings to each voting member of the BOD from seven days to 14 days.

Each section of the proxy was voted on separately, which meant that students could approve the bylaw changes without approving the name change.

Whiteford said there were about 50 students who said no to both motions and didn't see any of the benefits.

He said there was a good mixture of first-, second- and third-year students who voted to approve the name change.

"The proxies are pretty much alphabetically spread throughout the school," said Whiteford.

The student association approached first-year students during orientation week and received 1,000 proxies approving the change. Second- and third-year students were approached in class.

Whiteford said he had some students raise questions as to why the voting wasn't done in a standard format.

"Unfortunately student apathy is very high and few students would have ended up voting," he said.

Whiteford said he had considered setting up eight or nine polling stations around the college, but due to limited space he decided the student association had to go out to find students and approach them with the proxies.

He said the name change was done in preparation for the future

and will give the student association increased flexibility.

"It means we're prepared and more able to expand our operations to other campuses," said Whiteford. "We always had questions from Guelph and Waterloo asking why we're representing them when it's been the Doon association."

He said the Stratford and Cambridge campuses are not part of the student association, because there aren't a lot of students at those campuses and there's little interest in having the student association run events there.

"Size is the basic reason why we're not moving into Stratford and Cambridge at this point," said Whiteford.

However there's going to be growth in different areas and that's the rationale behind the name change.

Whiteford said another benefit of the name change is that it makes it more accountable to students.

"We can make sure in the future that students who are on BOD or the executive can make changes to strive for a better association," he said.

No charges laid in accident at college

By Dwight Irwin

No charges will be laid in an accident, which took place in front of Door 2 at Conestoga College around 12:30 p.m. on Oct. 16.

Michael Bell, 18, of Kitchener, a student at Conestoga College, was driving a 1989 Chevrolet van when he lost control due to excessive speed, witnesses said. Bell's vehicle hit a parked Pontiac Montana, owned by the college's nurse Trish Weiler.

The van, which was unoccupied at the time, was in Weiler's parking space in front of Door 2.

Nobody in Bell's van was injured.

Waterloo regional police were called to the scene because Bell left the scene of the accident, Al Hunter, supervisor of security services, said.

"We couldn't handle it internally because the driver left the scene," said Hunter.

About an hour after the accident Bell returned to the college and met with security.

Const. Carol McKay, of the Waterloo regional police, said there will be no charges laid because the accident occurred on private property.

Also no eyewitnesses came forward to police to say Bell was driving recklessly.

"Police don't have much authority to lay charges on private property. The Highway Traffic Act only comes into effect on roads. The Criminal Code can be enacted anywhere, but we didn't have any evidence of dangerous driving," McKay said.

The accident is now an issue between Bell's and Weiler's insurance companies.

"He'll likely be punished enough by his insurance company," McKay said.

Eyewitnesses to the accident said Bell was driving carelessly and nearly hit somebody picking up a Hackysack at the side of the road.

"We were playing Hackysack there," Dennis Cirelli, a first-year electrical engineering student, said referring to a spot between doors 3 and 4.

"The guy slowed down at the curve then sped up while I was picking up the Hackysack off the side of the road. He only missed me by about a foot."

Cirelli's classmate Rob Brayshaw said once the driver sped up and narrowly missed his friend, the van



Cliff Laurin, of security services, put up police tape around a Pontiac Montana parked outside of Door 2. The van was damaged when an 18-year-old driver lost control of his vehicle and hit the van. No charges will be laid in the accident.

(Photo by Dwight Irwin)

went out of control and began fishtailing on the wet pavement.

"He tried to correct but never let off the gas. He went to the other side of the road at a 90-degree angle. Then his rear tires grabbed and he went straight into the side

of the van. Then he turned around and booked it," Brayshaw said.

Although Cirelli wasn't hurt, he wondered what would've happened if somebody was.

"He could've hit somebody. It's just crazy," he said.

Conestoga enrolment on the up and up

This September the college enrolled 4,713 students in 48 diploma programs

By Petra Lampert

While some Ontario colleges have experienced a decline in enrolments due to the growing economy and an abundance of jobs, Conestoga has experienced an increase in enrolment in its full-time programs.

According to the registrar's post-secondary enrolment report as of Sept. 18, enrolment has risen by 2.59 per cent.

This September, the college had an enrolment of 4,713 students in 48 diploma and certificate programs, compared to 4,594 students in 48 programs last September.

Conestoga registrar Fred Harris said the increase comes as no surprise, because Conestoga's application numbers showed a substantial increase, while a number of other colleges had either no increase or a decline in applications.

Colleges that saw a decrease in enrolments are Sheridan and St. Clair.

There were 9,631 students enrolled at Sheridan this year, compared to 9,837 last year, which resulted in a 2.1 per cent decrease.

St. Clair enrolments decreased by 2.4 per cent, with 5,299 students enrolled this year, compared to 5,432 last year.

Enrolment is on the rise at other area colleges, such as Mohawk, Humber, Seneca and Fanshawe.

Enrolments to Mohawk increased by 6.5 per cent, with 7,794 students this year, compared to 7,319 last year.

Humber enrolments increased by 1.9 per cent, with 12,119 students this year, compared to 11,896 last year.

There was a 3.2 per cent increase in enrolments at Seneca, with 15,043 students this year, compared to 14,573 last year.

Enrolment also increased at Fanshawe by 3.1 per cent, with 9,331 students this year, compared to 9,053 last year.

"First-year programs have been growing steadily and we would see that following through."

*Jennifer Leith,
associate registrar*

Jennifer Leith, an associate registrar at the college, said one reason for the increase in enrolments at Conestoga is that new programs have been developed.

"First-year programs have been growing steadily and we would see that following through," she said.

Harris said he believes students are turning to Conestoga for a variety of reasons such as the practical value of a college education, Conestoga's excellent reputation and the dynamic, growing, skills-based economy of the region.

The business and engineering technology schools continue to be the largest schools at the college.

There were 1,757 students enrolled in business programs this year, compared to 1,764 last year.

This year 1,121 students were enrolled in engineering technology programs, compared to 1,117 last year.

Harris said he thinks those numbers reflect the nature of employment in the area and Conestoga graduates especially benefit from the region's strong business and industrial companies.

He said enrolment tends to be concentrated in these two areas because companies look to the college to keep them moving forward, while the college offers programs

that lead to meaningful job opportunities.

Conestoga's school of health sciences and community services showed a 15 per cent increase in enrolment with 987 students enrolled this year, compared to 852 last year.

Applied arts programs have an enrolment of 563, compared to 541 last year. And the school of college access and preparatory studies has 285 enrolled, compared to 320.

Enrolment in first-year programs increased by 3.05 per cent this year, with 2,564 students, compared to 2,488 last year.

Second-year program enrolments also increased by 3.72 per cent, with 1,504 students this year, compared to 1,450 last year.

And third-year program enrolments decreased by 1.68 per cent, with 645 students this year, compared to 656 last year.

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K-W organization attacks poverty in region

By Julie Porter

An innovative group has combined fun, food and educational workshops to take steps to alleviate the burden of poverty in the lives of people from the K-W region.

The Step Ahead symposium, a conference for low-income people, was held on Oct. 14 at the Jacob Hespeler School in Cambridge.

Step Ahead was an initiative of the organization Opportunities 2000 that strives to eliminate poverty in the Waterloo region.

In March 2000, a group called the Community Action Team, made up of staff of Opportunities 2000 and individuals of low-income, got together to plan a conference around what they felt was needed to help people get out of poverty. Step Ahead was the result.

Step Ahead was free with the criteria that participants are of low-income. Applicants registered in advance and were asked to choose the workshops which most interested them from the list provided.

Opportunity 2000 covered transportation and child-care costs for the day, so that as many people as

possible could attend.

The day included educational sessions such as Eat Right... Feel Great, Ontario Works: Present and Future, Find a Boss or Be Your Own Boss, Your Dynamic Self and Learning Your Way into the Future.

Fun workshops included Hairstyles and Cuts, Footcare Clinic, Yoga and The Beating of the Drums.

The day was a definite success, according to Yvonne Hilker, a participant at the symposium, who was told about the event by her granddaughter.

"It's been a wonderful day. It was planned beautifully, and the food... extraordinary," said Hilker.

She attended the workshop Take the Distress Out of Stress and was interested in the content.

"He told us all about stress in life and explained how to relieve it. The big thing is breathing. I found that interesting," said Hilker.

Hilker said as a senior citizen, she definitely counts as a low-income person.

"We live cheque to cheque, so it can get pretty low. I learned some great things today about health, but

I'm still a low-income person," she said.

According to Lori Petersen, program developer for Opportunity 2000, the organization strives to help people find community resources that are available to them, but that they may not know are there.

"We try to make businesses aware of the needs and barriers concerning lower-income people," said Petersen.

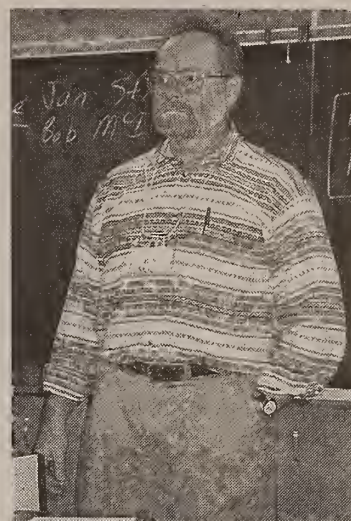
Some of these barriers are issues of child care and transportation.

"A lot of people have full-time jobs and are single parents, and child care can eat up an entire budget. Or some may not have cars to get to interviews," said Petersen.

Petersen said she hoped to get more people involved with Opportunity 2000, so that positive changes can be made to enhance the lives of people living under the poverty line.

Presently 14.6 per cent of the population of Waterloo Region lives under the poverty line.

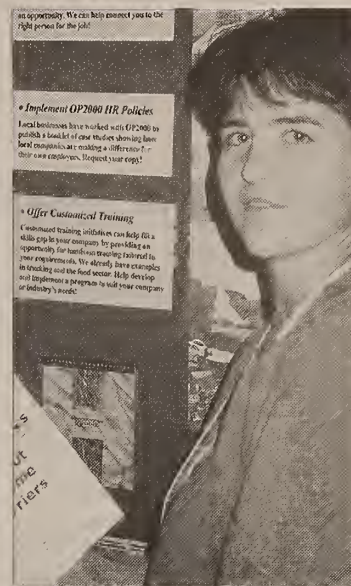
"How can we make those lives better? That's the aim of this group. We want to be able to give people



Bob McIvor, co-ordinator of access and preparatory studies, addresses the participants about educational opportunities on Oct. 14.

(Photo by Julie Porter)

the resources and act as a stepping-stone so people can say 'Oh, I know that's there now. I want to do this to help myself out of poverty,'" said Petersen.



Lori Peterson, program developer of Opportunities 2000, and a social work student of Conestoga College, displays the new guide developed by Opportunities 2000 at the Step Ahead Symposium on Oct. 14.

(Photo by Julie Porter)

Physical safety and awareness course offered

By Tammy Somerville

The National Protection Agency wants you, if you're a LASA or police foundations student, or if you are currently active in the industry.

The agency is holding a physical safety and awareness course for the law and security professional at Conestoga College's rec centre Oct. 28 and 29 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The cost for the two-day session is \$200 and includes a NPA training manual.

The course will provide hands-on, practical, effective, street-proven defensive tactics and self-defence for anyone who is a professional or a student of security or policing.

NPA chief instructor and CEO Cameron E. Veitch has been a teacher of second-year crime and loss prevention for two years at Conestoga. He says all who participate will learn practical street-effective self-defence techniques.

Survival and winning the war are not just what the NPA is concerned with, says Veitch. They want people who participate in the course to survive the conflict without getting sued civilly because of excessive use of force or improper techniques.

Veitch, who has 10 years experience in martial arts and self-defence as well as nine years in security in the private sector, started his company this year. He wrote the 100-page manual that is included in the physical safety and awareness course.

In his manual, Veitch says that people in the industry should take such a course because flexibility and openness of their minds will allow them to adapt and improvise to fit their scenario. There is no such thing as a wrong or bad technique in the street when it affects an escape or defends against an attack.

"Physical intervention is a last recourse is repeated about five to seven times throughout our book. It's critical," says Veitch.

Some of the course expectations and rules are: leave your attitude and ego at the door; learn to work with other body sizes and genders; personal hygiene is important; cross-gender training is important; and at no time is sexual contact, advances or harassment allowed or tolerated.

While \$200 may seem high for students, Veitch says the cost of the course reflects the value of the course and quality of the instructors.



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Corrections

In the Oct. 16 issue of Spoke, an article about the United Way campaign at Conestoga College said a Christmas dinner raffle prize was donated by Beaver Food. The prize was actually donated by Conestoga's food and beverage management program.

Also, Eleanor Conlin's titled was incorrect. She is chairperson of academic research and prior learning assessment and recognition. Spoke apologizes for the errors.

Tentative deal a good one for support staff

Support staff at community colleges have reached a tentative deal and their negotiating team is unanimous in recommending this settlement.

The Ontario Public Service Employees Union, which represents about 5,500 support staff in the system, was right in saying that the colleges' support staff had not been treated fairly by college management on a province-wide basis.

According to Ann Wallace, the president of Conestoga's OPSEU local, the last pay raise she can recall was a six per cent raise in 1989. In the 1997 contract the employer said there was no money for raises. In the first year of that contract, support staff did not get a pay increase. In the second year, there was a \$300 signing bonus, and in the final year of the contract, there was a 1.5 per cent pay raise.

Prior to the 1997 contract, all OPSEU employees earning over \$30,000 a year were subject to former premier Bob Rae's Social Contract, which froze their wages. Additionally, that piece of legislature forced all public service employees to take six unpaid workdays, the "Rae Days."

The only exemptions from the Social Contract were those employees making less than \$30,000 per year.

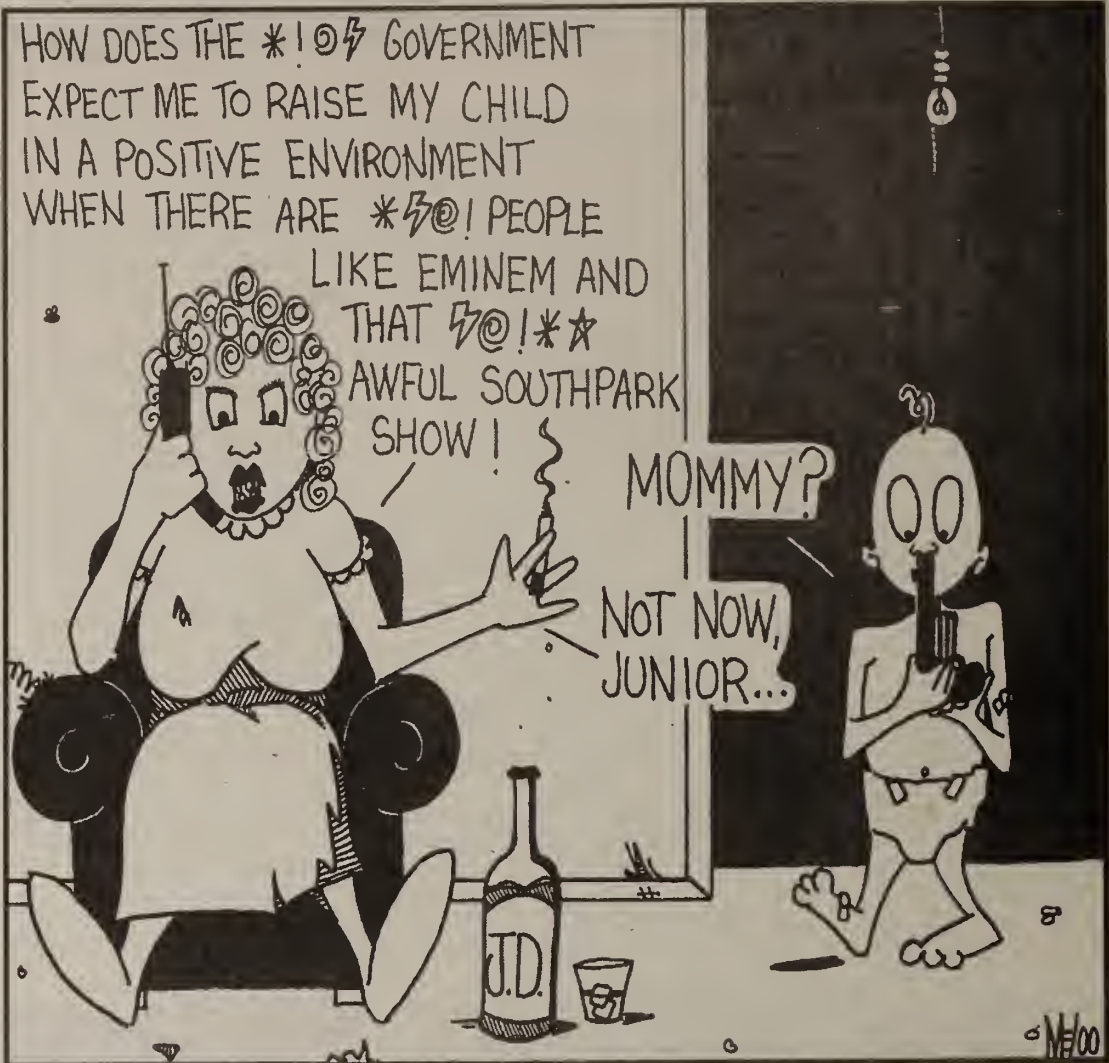
But when the college's faculty went through the bargaining process in 1998 some received as much as a 14 per cent raise over three years. College managers received a six per cent pay raise for 1999, plus bonuses for performance, and more money if they weren't at the top of the pay scale. This time the support staff tabled a demand for a substantial pay increase. In addition to the substantial wage increase, the union also asked for more equity in relation to faculty and management, especially in sick days. Support staff receive eight fully paid sick days, faculty receives 20 and managers are allowed to take 130 fully paid sick days per year.

The Ontario Council of Regents which represents management at the colleges said it needed more flexibility and wanted to negotiate a new kind of employee called the "term certain" employee but the support staff union opposed term certain because the colleges already have 5,700 part-timers for 5,500 full-time staff.

There are already seven different ways people can be hired. They said the colleges wanted to be able to replace support staff with cheaper workers with no benefits and no job security. A cheap pool of staff with no rights and no protection ready to step into support staff jobs any time, according to the union.

The negotiating teams for OPSEU and the Council of Regents reached a tentative deal when they met Oct. 3 - 4. Wage increases of two per cent each year of the three-year contract, an additional step on the wage grid, a new payband, increases in the differential between steps, shift premium increases and improved benefits are worth close to 13 per cent. Any reference to term certain is gone and there are other assorted gains.

Support staff have had minimal pay increases for 10 years. They have been reluctant to inconvenience students by striking but they felt this year they had to take a stand and they were ready to strike to get a fair wage increase in a decent collective agreement. The new contract will not make every support staff worker happy, but this is a fair and reasonable offer. Support staff should vote in favour of the contract. To disrupt students' learning and expect students to make sacrifices in the hope of getting something even better would be destructive. The support staff should accept this deal.



Politics creates circus

By Jody Andruszkiewicz

Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, children of all ages, welcome to the greatest show on earth. Well, perhaps it's not the greatest show on earth, but in light of what's happened in the past months, one might think there are clowns sitting in the House of Commons, not our elected officials.

What the Canadian public has been able to see this summer is indeed nothing short of laughable. And that was when Parliament wasn't sitting.

To quickly recap what's happened this summer, the Canadian Alliance voted in surfer-dude Stockwell Day to lead them, the federal Tories voted in former prime minister Joe Clark to bring them to the promised land of maintaining official party status, and the Liberals, well Jean Chretien still has his job.

But even before the Alliance and Conservatives named their party leaders, Tories were jumping ship to Canada's "newest" political party. And no sooner had Joe Clark been knighted as the

Conservatives' saviour, Chretien borrowed two Tory politicians.

And in an even bigger coup, the Alliance recruited two members of the Bloc Quebecois to finally give the former Reform Party a foothold in Quebec.

When you have the bright and energetic Day giving snap press conferences after he gets off his jet-ski, and the stodgy Clark talking about traditional Tory values, you're getting a landslide in the race for the leader of right-wing politics.

Admittedly, Clark is facing an uphill fight in his battle for respectability. Unfortunately he's still stuck with the trickle-down effect of Brian Mulroney's last years in power. And it has severely hurt his chances of bringing the Tories back to power. Not having an innovative platform has done some damage too.

But Day is everything that Reform Party leader Preston Manning wasn't. He's got a cosmopolitan flair about him where Manning was often viewed as "that guy from out West" or the politician lampooned on the Royal

Canadian Air Farce.

Day's actions can leave a person scratching his/her head wondering if he knows what he's doing. Day is asking for politicians to get Fridays off, saying it would be easier for them to do work in their ridings and give them more time to be at home with their families. Great, just what the Canadian public needs, politicians doing more of nothing.

Political pundits said the day Stockwell walked into the House would be when politics in Canada got interesting. The gloves would be thrown off and he and Chretien would go at it every day, trying to get the upper hand with voters.

Well, Day's first day in the House saw him spend it in the Press Gallery or running around the Commons hogging all the press with pretty charts and graphics. And since then, the press is still hyping up Day vs. Chretien at every turn.

Those political pundits were right. Canadian politics has gotten interesting with Day in the House. But it's only interesting because the politicians have allowed it to be turned into a circus.

SPOKE

Keeping Conestoga College connected

SPOKE is published and produced weekly by the journalism students of Conestoga College.

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Conestoga to host marketing competition

By Petra Lampert

Ontario students will come to Doon in November

Conestoga is hosting this year's Ontario College's Marketing Competition (OCMC).

This year is the first year the college will host the annual event that provides marketing students with an opportunity to showcase their knowledge of marketing concepts and current business information.

Students from across Ontario will be participating, with about 250 students representing 18 colleges. Students will be tested in both individual and team events.

Some marketing competition

events include marketing research, direct marketing, advertising, sales management, retail merchandising, entrepreneurship, job interviewing, sales presentation, marketing simulation and marketing quiz-bowl definitions.

The competition will take place on Nov. 16 and 17 at the Four Points Hotel in Kitchener with the after party and quiz bowl to be held at the college in the Sanctuary.

Phil LeBeau, president of Conestoga Students Inc., said the

"We always want to benefit the most number of students and essentially the donation would have only benefited about seven students."

Brad Whiteford,
CSI vice-president
of operations

student association is donating the use of the student lounge for the event and BOD volunteers to work the pub.

He said the student association will incur the cost of the pub and donate any profits from liquor sales to the marketing competition.

Brad Whiteford, CSI vice-president of operations, said the student association was supposed to donate \$3,000 to the competition, but unfortunately the event wasn't in the budget.

"We have to be careful about funding opportunities," said Whiteford. "We always want to benefit the most number of students and essentially the donation would have only benefited about seven students." LeBeau said he has made recommendations for the student association to budget the marketing competition for next year.

Volunteers are needed for security, decorating, audio-visuals, greeting visitors, hospitality, helping photographers, running errands and information staff. Those interested can sign up on the sheets posted on the bulletin board in the cafeteria.

Frisbees and T-shirts given away at Guelph barbecue

By Tracy Ford

Students at the Guelph campus received free burgers and pop on Oct. 10 at the campus's first barbecue organized by Conestoga Students Incorporated.

Similar to Doon's pond party, students and staff at Guelph listened to music, filled their stomachs and got free stuff from various sponsors.

"It was a beautiful sunny day," said Monica Himmelman, an alumni officer with Conestoga's Alumni Association, which donated money for the burgers. "The weather really co-operated."

This is the first event the CSI has held at the satellite campus since the Guelph and Waterloo campus student body became members of the CSI earlier this year.

Companies like Ford and Microplay sponsored the event along with the Alumni Association. Students were given Frisbees, T-shirts, sunglasses and lip balm.

Lots of students showed up for the free food but only a few members from faculty, said Himmelman. "We had a hundred people for sure."

She said the students responded positively to the event because they were getting something back for the money they paid for the CSI membership.

The CSI also sent a bus to the campus to transport students to Kitchener for Conestoga's Oktoberfest night at Westmount on Oct. 12.

Himmelman said a similar event could be planned for the Waterloo campus but the CSI doesn't have a student interested in being a representative from the campus.

"They (CSI) need someone for a contact," she said.

Himmelman said the CSI hopes to keep the barbecue as an annual thing for the Guelph and Waterloo campuses.

"It's a great example of partnership," she said.

Brad Whiteford, CSI vice-president of operations, said the barbecue at Guelph was a starting point.

"I think it would be a good idea for an annual thing."

He said if the event is held every year, he would try to have it earlier in the year but because of the events the CSI has planned at Doon, the CSI gets overwhelmed.

Once the CSI gets a board of directors representative from Waterloo, Whiteford said a similar event could be held outside the cafeteria.

"The same sort of day at the Waterloo campus would be good to raise awareness (of the CSI)," he said.

A BOD representative from a satellite campus, unlike representatives from Doon, wouldn't have to attend meetings with BOD or be on a BOD committee. The student would be responsible for making personal contact with students who attend school at the campus, getting feedback from them and communicating with the CSI.

Whiteford said the CSI wants the representatives from the satellite campuses to have regular office hours, which is usually two each week, so students can come and talk to them about their concerns.

"We need to get someone from that campus," said Whiteford. He said it's difficult to run events on another campus without a representative there.

COUNSELLOR'S CORNER: Multiculturalism

Have you recently moved from your home country to Canada? Is English your second language? Are you on international student visa, of landed immigrant status, or did your family originate from a country other than Canada? Have you recently emigrated from a war-torn country? Are you dealing with issues such as culture shock, unfamiliarity with college or community resources, racism, or a lack of cultural familiarity? Will you be experiencing a Canadian winter for the first time?

Our college community is becoming enriched more and more with students from various cultural backgrounds. This creates a wonderful opportunity for growth, learning, and diversity. However, it can also pose transition issues for those who are new to the country and the college.

If you feel you need support dealing with these transitions, help is available. You can talk to your teachers, classmates, friends, or counsellors in Student Services. The Multicultural Support Group offered through Student Services provides an opportunity to meet new people and talk about issues related to being in a new country. The Peer Host Service offers one-on-one matches with your peers for the purpose of support and friendship. To learn more about resources at the college and in the community, visit Student Services.

A message from Student Services (Room 2B02).

GROUPS AND WORKSHOPS FALL SEMESTER 2000

Groups and Workshops

Gay/ Lesbian/ Bisexual/ Transgendered Discussion & Networking Group	TBA
Multicultural Support Group	Week of Oct. 2
Suicide Prevention Workshop	Oct.5, 2:30 P.M.
Relaxation Group	Week of Oct. 9
Public Speaking Anxiety Group	Week of Oct. 23
Test Anxiety Group	Week of Oct. 30
Stress Management Workshop	Nov.7, 3:30 P.M.

Study Skills Workshops

Time Management	Oct. 2	11:30-12:30	3A621
Listening and Note-taking	Oct. 16	12:30-1:30	3A616
Multiple Choice Tests	Oct. 25	12:30-1:30	3A621
	Oct. 30	12:30-1:30	3A616
Effective Textbook Reading	Nov. 6	12:30-1:30	3A616
Multiple Choice Tests	Nov. 15	11:30-12:30	3A616
Preparing for Final Exams	Dec. 4	12:30-1:30	3A616
	Dec. 6	12:30-1:30	3A621

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College playground equipment unsafe

By Michelle Goring

Most of the outdoor playground equipment used by Conestoga College's day-care centres has been inspected and is considered unsafe. It must be either modified or replaced to meet the requirements of the new Canadian Standards Association (CSA) standard for children's play spaces and equipment.

"If you travel around to the college's day-care centres, you'll see that the equipment is there but no children are playing on it," said Shelley Schenk, manager of the college's day-care centres.

The new requirements come out of research and investigations into playground-related injuries which resulted in the Canadian Institute of Child Health forming a task force to develop guidelines for playground safety.

In June 1990, a guideline for children's play spaces and equipment was approved as a national standard of Canada. Effective May 1998, the new CSA standard, CSA Z614-98, was approved as a national standard of Canada by the Standards Council of Canada. The standard applies to any public outdoor play area, including child care centres.

The college hired an outside company to do the necessary inspections last fall and it took until December before all the college's playgrounds were inspected. It was then that the day cares found out

their equipment was non-compliant with the new standards.

In response to the inspection, the college decided to close down the equipment, given the time of year, and it has remained closed.

"We wanted to look carefully at what we needed to fix and what we could fix," Schenk said. "What we found out is that we are allowed to make repairs on most of the equipment."

According to Schenk, the change has hit the child-care centre hard. Child-care centres, such as Conestoga's, are operating as non-profit organizations.

"It's not like any of them have a pool of money available to sink thousands of dollars into the repair and replacement of playgrounds," said Schenk, "especially when the change wasn't anticipated."

In the late spring, the college was provided the opportunity to apply for funding from the regional municipality of Waterloo. The offer went to all child-care centres in the region and required the centres to submit proposals to access the money.

The college was awarded a one time funding allowance of \$20,000, which was the maximum amount of money allocated to any one agency. The money is to be used for repairs, renovations and replacements in the college's playgrounds.

"We will be able to get quite a bit of equipment open to be used by the children, and that's our goal,"



Shelley Schenk, manager of Conestoga College's day-care centres, shows a piece of playground equipment that needs repairs to meet new standards set by Canadian Standards Association, on Oct. 12. The new standards were approved May 1998 by the Standards Council of Canada.

(Photo by Michelle Goring)

said Schenk. "With \$20,000 I think we can make a pretty big dent on the repairs that we need."

Although a lot of the equipment will be repaired, some of it will be coming down because the cost of repairs is too high.

The new standard also looks at the distance between outdoor equipment and the area around it. A swing, for example, must have six feet of space around it measured

from the distance a child would reach in full swing. So although some equipment could have been repaired, the lack of distance around it means it has to come down.

College employees will do a large percentage of the work that needs to be done on the playground. Peter Schlei of physical resources will be working with Schenk to repair the playground.

"If we find we need to go outside the college, then it may very well happen," Schenk said. "But we think for the most part the work can be done by college employees."

Day-care staff has had to be creative when taking children outside to play.

The use of gross-motor skills, the larger muscles in children, was taken for granted before because the staff had the larger equipment for the children to use these muscles. Since the change, outdoor activities now have to be planned and equipment must be taken outdoors.

"One day you might walk by and see an obstacle course set up on the grass," Schenk said.

The children see the playground equipment every day and cannot use it but they are taking the change rather well, said Schenk.

She said it has been eight to nine months since the climbers were used but the children have gotten used to it.

Other requirements of the CSA standard for children's play spaces and equipment include new or newly renovated equipment, surfacing in new and existing playgrounds and routine maintenance and inspections which must include daily visual inspection, a detailed and documented monthly inspection, seasonal maintenance inspections and annual comprehensive inspections with written reports and child injury logs.

CBSA holding new slogan contest

Association wants enough Web site hits to receive free e-mail

By Sanja Musa

Anne Tailleux, president of the Conestoga Business Students Association, announced an idea for a contest to promote a free e-mail service offered on the CBSA Web site, <http://www.cbsa.on.ca>, on Oct. 12.

The contest is to begin Nov. 1. According to Tailleux, the association wishes to find a replacement for the slogan Taking Care of Business.

Students and faculty members who want to participate may bring their ideas to the contest by sending e-mails to the CBSA executive members.

Executive members and class representatives of the CBSA will decide the winner of the contest.

The CBSA's free e-mail could become another way of fund-raising for the needs of business students, if enough hits are maintained.

Every time someone uses the e-mail site it is marked as a hit.

If the CBSA maintains 5,000 hits a month, Everyone.net Inc., California, which owns half of the banner space on the e-mail site, will buy the second half owned by the CBSA. The banner space is the advertisement space online.



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Canada



Study identifies challenges for child-care centres

Child-care providers and at-home caregivers fail to give children stimulation, study says

By Tammy Somerville

The biggest study ever done on child care in Canada shows that most child-care centres and at-home caregivers fail to give young children the stimulation they need for best development.

Shelley Schenk, manager of child-care centres for Conestoga College, says the study of 234 centres and 231 home child-care providers was pretty limited when there are at least 60 centres alone in Waterloo Region. She is also concerned about the slant of the study.

"It felt like a slam on child-care centres."

"This isn't a problem that is going away. This is important for children and the study says we better wake up and do something."

*Maria Roberts,
supervisor of the Doon
Child Care Centre*

Maria Roberts, supervisor of the Doon Child Care Centre, says she takes exception to the underlying current in the study that says caregivers don't care.

"I have been in the field for over 20 years, you're not here that long if you don't care. Most of our staff has been here over 10 years. You don't do this kind of work for that long if you don't care. I take great exception to that. Do I recognize there are problems, of course? The slant of many of the stories written about the study was 'Oh my, our children are in danger'. And I think it is more 'Oh my, as a society we better take a look at what we are doing to support people who are caring for our children.'"

The study was conducted by five researchers and found only 44 per cent of preschool rooms in centres and only 21 per cent of toddler

rooms provide the kind of activities and materials that support and encourage development in young children. The study says the majority of centres in Canada are providing care that is of minimal to mediocre quality.

Schenk says that the study was positive in that it identifies some of the challenges for child-care centres and its staff.

Roberts says the study has merit in areas that speak specifically to the lack of funding from the provincial and federal governments.

"The next point that has merit is with respect to wages for early childhood educators. Unless you're in a licensed unionized environment, you're not going to get pay that matches the kind of work that you do when you're in charge of these very young children. This study and many others say that these are the years when most of the development takes place and yet these are some of the worst paid people in society."

The workers at Conestoga's centres are unionized. They are well paid and have benefit packages, says Roberts.

"We try to do the best job that we can, but there is a real need to look after our own families too. When you think of a mechanic who fixes your car gets paid \$30 an hour and yet we're in charge of your child. You find a lot of high quality early childhood workers will leave the field because they can't maintain their own life and have to get another job."

Workers at Conestoga College's six child-care centres earn between \$17.69 and \$19.64 an hour.

Roberts says she would think that K-W has many, many high quality child-care centres. One of the basic reasons for that is there are more non-profit centres than centres for profit.

"There is a real difference in what your motivation is," says Roberts. "If you are trying to look at your bottom line and how much money you're making, you're not apt to



Teddy Haag, two-and-half years old, squishes and mashes shaving cream at the sensory shaving cream table in the preschool room at Doon's Child Care Centre.
(Photo by Tammy Somerville)

turn that money back into the program or back into the salaries of the staff that work there. Because we have that ability in most of our centres in this area, the focus stays on the children and the program."

Roberts says that the study doesn't necessarily say a crisis exists in child care but it is an important step to looking at the issue.

"Before the Harris government came into power there was a real movement to look at trying to make child care a really important focus, but with the change of government, the focus certainly shifted from that."

"This isn't a problem that is going away," says Roberts. "This is important for children and the study says we better wake up and do something."

Roberts says she thinks the study was a call to governments to pay attention that this is serious.

"If we don't address these things now, we'll address it sooner or later."

Either society addresses it when they are infants, toddlers or preschoolers or it will address it with special funding that will be needed with children experiencing difficulties in school or it'll address it when they are in their teenage years and on welfare, says Roberts.

"We will have to address it at some point. Why not give the kids the best chance. Why make them pay for five, six or 10 years having a crummy kind of life. It doesn't seem to make a lot of sense."

Roberts adds the scales used in the study were accurate for an evaluating environment. She says the tools used assessed the overall environment. Children weren't individually assessed and there was not a satisfaction component to them. Staff involvement or number of toys weren't shown to have any separate benefits.

"Some of the long-term studies would have to be included with this one before you could make a con-

clusion. Based on environment, our environment is stressed right now. If you look around our centre, we have some new toys but we also have some toys that we would surely like to replace with new things and that is directly related to the budget and funding with the cutbacks from the government."

Roberts says that if you look around their centre you'll also see staff doing really great things with the children.

"So which component is really more important? How you balance that out is really hard to say," says Roberts.

The study says that 37 per cent of at-home caregivers are said to provide a stimulating and supportive environment. This number is much higher than centre care for infants.

Roberts says this is because the percentage of people that offer infant care in a centre is small because it's extremely expensive to operate. It's expensive because you need one staff person for every three infants in Ontario. The return that you would have from those three fees to offset the cost of a qualified person doesn't balance.

"Centres either choose not to do infant and toddler care because it's too expensive or they may not have the resources to do it as well as they might like to," says Roberts.

"In a really high-quality home-care situation that person is able to have five children in that home. If one of those children is an infant and the rest are preschoolers, you can see that there is a lot more time available for the baby or when the baby is sleeping to spend with the preschoolers. Five children is a manageable number in a high-quality home-care setting."

In home child-care settings, the person doesn't have to be trained in any way and can sometimes be nothing more than the typical babysitting type of situation.

"You might have a lot of televi-

sion watching and no activities for the kids to do. You might have a caregiver who isn't interested in what she is doing, she just knows that she can take five kids in and make a fairly decent living at it," says Roberts.

She adds that if parents can find an excellent private-home child care, they're laughing because she feels that is the best scenario.

"This person becomes very important in your child's life. The drawback is if they are sick, what happens?"

Schenk and Roberts agree that parents should visit their children's child-care environment because it is important for parents to know what their kids are doing.

"Parents should use the study as an education tool. They have a part to play in advocating quality child care," says Schenk.

The study suggests parents should look for qualifications and high wages of staff in a day-care centre. The study also suggests that the centre should be used as a practice area for student teachers and be non-profit.

Schenk says the federal government's responsibility is to ensure that there is money available to provinces, which will go to early childhood education programs and centres.

Roberts says she feels that the federal government should at least provide a solid base for child care. She adds that funding should not affect parent's choices when looking for a place that suits their needs as well as their child's.

"There needs to be a mutual level of all governments making quality a priority," says Schenk. "Harris's reign of power has not provided or continued to provide for any social services programs. There needs to be an increased commitment that says young kids are important. Long-term goals for society as a whole are what we need."



Maria Roberts, supervisor at Doon Child Care Centre, points out a peek-a-boo blanket in the infant room on Oct. 13. The blanket promotes cognitive development in infants, and was made by a staff member.
(Photo by Tammy Somerville)

Firefighter program debuts at college

By Julie Porter

The pre-entry firefighting program made its debut at Conestoga College this September, with 36 students enrolled.

The first program of its kind at the college, it garnered 100 applicants even though it was not advertised or listed in the college course catalog. Currently, it is a one-year program, preparing students for a career in fighting fires.

According to Jeff Weber, co-ordinator of the pre-entry firefighter program, it is different from programs that feed students directly into careers.

"Getting into fire services is a different sort of process," said Weber. "This course is a stepping stone."

A student must also work in the field on an apprentice-like program to obtain a general fire diploma.

Weber said most students heard about the program from friends or family who are firefighters or were students at Conestoga last year and were able to learn about the new program from the college.

The college had been considering a program in firefighting four years ago, and a committee was finally struck two years ago to get the wheels in motion.

Weber said more than 50 per cent of students in the program were mature students, or those who had already taken college courses, and the remaining came straight from high school.

The requirements to attend the pre-entry firefighting program are similar to those for the paramedic program. Students are required to have Grade 12 English and Grade 11 or 12 physics or chemistry.

Students who met the requirements were asked to attend an information seminar where they filled out a profile.

Weber said that applicants were asked to provide detail about any background they may have had in emergency situations, volunteer work or playing team sports.

"Team work is essential," he said. "A firefighter must be able to work well within the team. It is a really important aspect of the job."

Weber also stressed physical fitness as an important asset that students should bring to the program.

"There has been a real change over the years in the fire service (around) understanding the importance of the mental and physical health in this job. Heart attacks are the biggest killers of firefighters and they can happen after a call," he said. "Critical

incidence stress is a problem in all emergency services. Firefighters, at least have the support of their team members. Being in a group is really important to the job."

Because of these considerations, Weber emphasizes the importance of physical and mental health in the program.

Weber said the education to deal with critical incidence stress is available now, where before it wasn't.

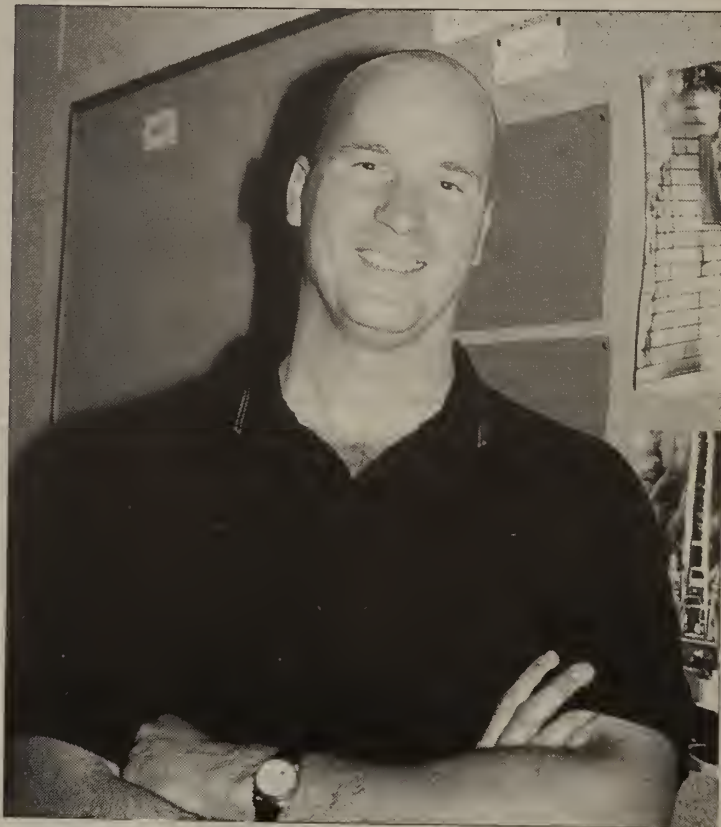
The program currently is theory-based, but Weber said changes that are expected in November might add more practical skills to the course.

The pre-entry firefighting program is taught by instructors who work full time either as firefighters or in the field in some capacity.

Weber said initially the lure of a good stable job was enticing, but it also appealed to him as a way he could contribute to the community.

"For many mature students, I think the pay and security is a draw, but also the excitement of the career and the chance to meet people are really draws also."

Weber said when he started in the field he thought it would be all about fighting fires, but that 90 per cent of the job is public relations work, talking to people and trying to educate the public about fire safety.



Jeff Weber, co-ordinator for the pre-entry firefighting program, stands beside a bulletin board near health services. The board highlights the new program which started in September with 36 students enrolled.

(Photo by Julie Porter)

CSI gets Guelph and Waterloo campuses involved

By Paul Kostal

Now that it represents students at the Guelph and Waterloo campuses, in addition to the Doon campus, Conestoga Students Inc. (formerly the Doon Student Association) is going to try to involve those students in any activities it plans.

Tracy Evans, the CSI vice-president of student life, said the CSI has attempted and will continue to attempt to get the students at the other campuses involved in CSI activities.

"The Guelph campus has been excited to get involved," she said, citing the recent barbecue held at

the Guelph campus. "When you offer a bunch of hungry guys food, you're going to have a good turnout," she joked.

Evans said the CSI has yet to find any student representatives from the Waterloo campus, and the Waterloo representatives on the board of governors will be spending extra time at that campus until volunteers can be found.

The CSI has held several bus trips to local bars since the start of the school year.

Buses have been available for students at both the Guelph and Waterloo campuses so students at either campus could join their

"It wouldn't be worth it to come all the way down here just for a party we're throwing in the Sanctuary."

Tracy Evans,
CSI vice-president
of student life

Doon counterparts for a night out.

However, because of poor turnouts from Guelph and Waterloo, that may be something that doesn't continue.

Evans said students from the

other campuses would be more than welcome to join them on any bus trip the CSI plans.

However, she added they may have to find their own way to the Rodeway Suites residence at the Doon campus, where the buses depart from.

She said any students from the Guelph or Waterloo campus wishing to join the Doon students for the Halloween bus trip to Loose Change Louie's, a bar in Waterloo, can pick up wristbands from their student representatives at their campus.

Evans said plans are being made to hold a barbecue, similar

to the one at the Guelph campus, in Waterloo, some time in the spring, when the weather improves.

Evans said plans for small Christmas gift bags for the students at the satellite campuses are being made, and poppies will be made available at all campuses in honour of Remembrance Day.

Evans said it is all being done to try and make the students at the other campuses feel involved in CSI activities.

"It wouldn't be worth their time to come all the way down here just for a party we're throwing in the Sanctuary," she said.



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Renovated cafeteria offers new selections

By Sanja Musa

Conestoga's main cafeteria was renovated over the summer and it has expanded the variety of foods offered this year.

Renovations, which took six to eight weeks, included painting the serving area and improving the pastry sections with new cabinets.

More renovations were initially to be done, but since a new cafeteria similar to Dooners will be located in the new teaching building to be constructed at Doon campus, it was decided fewer renovations would be done to the main cafeteria.

"We always like to improve and over the years, as the campus expands, we will have more facilities," John Kast, food service director said.

Improvements can be also noted in the new selections of food.

The cafeteria now offers two types of soup each day instead of one. It features the tacos and hot dog carts three days a week, and Pizza Pizza and Pizza Pie are offered at the main cafeteria.

Beaver Foods, a division of Cara Co., introduced Pizza Pizza in September 1999, in Dooners, to replace the house program called

Pizza Pie.

The main cafeteria now also offers deli sandwiches and wraps, which were offered only at Dooners last year. The deli sandwiches and wraps can be found beside the market grill, which reopened last week.

"We always like to improve and over the years, as the campus expands, we will have more facilities."

John Kast, food service director

The market grill reopened late because the cafeteria wants to offer more variety to students after they get bored with the same kind of food.

Kast's main concerns in the new school year are that food is properly prepared, an adequate variety is available to students and there are enough locations of service.

Students are offered the opportunity to express their concerns as well.

A board called Let's Talk is posted behind one of the cash registers

in the main cafeteria serving area and students are encouraged to comment, positively or negatively, regarding the cafeteria's services.

"I'd rather have someone complaining about something if he or she must, than see the students stay away from the cafeteria," Kast said. "I'm able to accommodate some things; some of them I'm not. I can't please 4,000 people at once."

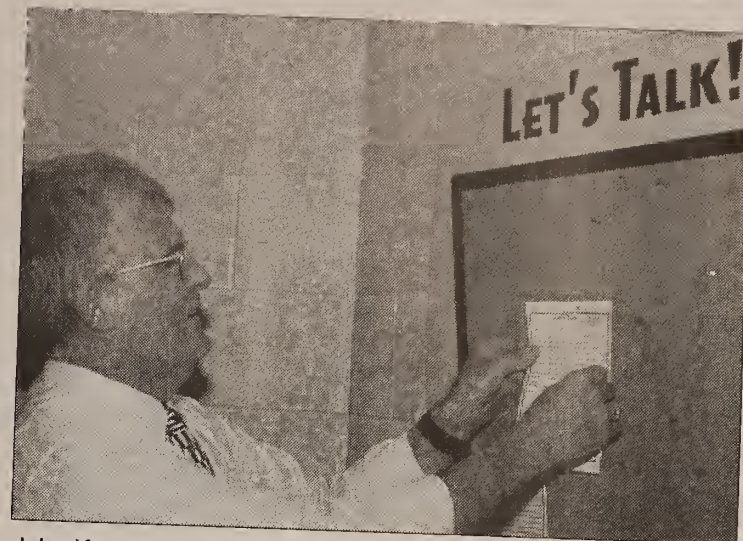
For instance, last year some of the students complained that the straws for drinks were too short. Cafeteria services reacted and offered longer straws this year.

The Let's Talk board is still empty this year, which is deceiving because some students have complaints but they would rather keep them to themselves.

One of those students is Kim Taylor, a second-year business accounting student, who suggested the cafeteria staff should make sure their hair is neatly scooped under their hairnets while working with food.

"The other day I found a hair in my wraps. That was gross," Taylor said.

Taylor's classmate Amy Blake, as well as Douglas Montenegro, a third-year mechanical engineering



John Kast, food service director with the college, said he'd rather see students' comments on the 'Let's Talk' board to try and deal with issues instead of having them stay away from the cafeteria.

(Photo by Sanja Musa)

student, and Kelly Stillar, a first-year graphic design student, said the cafeteria should lower its food and beverage prices.

"We (graphic design students) stay here about 13 hours a day, but we just can't afford to eat here every day," Stillar said. "I need about \$50 a week to eat in school."

Kast said prices have increased

about two per cent on average from last year because the labour costs and costs of the food purchased by the cafeteria have also increased.

"It's only an average increase," Kast said. "Some prices went up; some went down."

The prices do not increase from month to month, they stay the same for a full year, Kast added.

Autumn cleanup



Cory Mather, of physical resources, blows the first fallen leaves of autumn into a pile. Mather has only been employed by the college for four weeks but says he loves it so far because he gets to be outside.

(Photo by Tammy Somerville)

CBSA plans Halloween Biz Bash

By Sanja Musa

The members of the Conestoga Business Students Association are ready to party once again and to make some money doing so.

The CBSA executive team announced at the class representatives meeting Oct. 12, that there will be another Biz Bash on Oct. 26.

A Biz Bash is a party held for the students enrolled in the business programs of study, but it is open to all Conestoga students.

The Biz Bash to be held at the Inner City nightclub will have a Halloween theme. The bar will award prizes for the best and the worst costumes.

Tickets will be \$5 if bought at the college and \$8 at the door. Tickets will cost \$1 more compared to the first Biz Bash because the CBSA wants to promote tickets sales at the college, rather than at the last minute at the door.

It is likely cash prizes will be awarded, according to Riz Jamal, head of promotions with the CBSA.

"The prizes to be awarded are up to the bar," Jamal said. "More than likely there will be cash awards."

This will be the second Biz Bash held by the CBSA in this school year.



Anne Tailleir (left), president of Conestoga Business Students Association, and Sue Carpani, head of communications, are surrounded by a chocolate lovers dream Oct. 12. The CBSA is selling \$2 boxes of chocolates to fund various academic needs of business students.

(Photo by Sanja Musa)

About 500 tickets were sold for the first bash, held on Sept. 28.

It had a Pimp N'Ho theme and it was preferred everyone who attended dressed as a hooker or pimp.

The event was a success, but not everyone appreciated the theme, Jamal said. Some people thought the theme was inappropriate.

He apologized to those who were offended by the theme.

"The CBSA formally apologizes to those who were offended by the theme of the first Biz Bash and we regret that some may not have attended due to the theme."

Jamal wouldn't say how much money was collected at the first Biz Bash, but he did say the money is to be used to fund various academic needs of the business students at the college.

SPOKE
— get higher

Oktoberfest Night a smash at Westmount

By Dwight Irwin

Who would've thought Conestoga students would go crazy for polka?

I experienced my first Conestoga night at Oktoberfest on Oct. 12 at the Queensmount Arena. I couldn't believe how crazy everybody was about polka king Walter Ostanek.

"E-I-E-I-E-I Oh!" was the chant heard throughout the building when Walter played his fan favorite. People actually knew this song ... it blew my mind.

This guy is no mainstream, "heard him on the radio" kind of musician, but he sure knows how to throw a party. Many people were up dancing the whole night, except for when he took a break.

Everybody, between 1,000 to 1,200 in all, seemed to be having a great time. By the stickiness of the arena floor I'd say 95 per cent of people spilled at least one of their drinks. If you stood in one spot long enough you actually had to pull your feet off the floor. Picture those cartoons where the fly gets stuck in the bubble gum and multiply that by the 300 peo-

Students party with Polka King

ple on the dance floor.

There's nothing wrong with a sticky floor, it just shows people can't polka and drink at the same time. It's hard enough to polka as it is.

This guy is no mainstream, 'heard him on the radio' kind of musician, but he sure knows how to throw a party.

Walking through the crowd I noticed a lot of people smiling, meeting friends and having an all-around good time. Personally, I bumped into people I haven't seen in years.

That's what made Conestoga night so much fun. It's amazing how open students are once you get them out of school. People who didn't even know each other were joking around, which would never happen inside the hallowed halls of Conestoga College. You could see

the stresses of school draining from each person with each drink and each cheer for Walter.

Of course there was a handful of people who had to be escorted out of the building by one (sometimes two or three) of the many security personnel. That's the downside to combining booze and college students.

I'm sure most of the people thrown out deserved to be heaved, but I know of at least one person who did nothing worse than sit on a picnic table before being asked to leave. Good thing he left quietly. There were a few people who didn't and they got a free lift from the police.

Everybody who didn't break the rules and tried not to spill their \$4 drinks (when did beer turn to gold?) seemed to have a great time.

Personally, I had an excellent time. I even left with a newfound respect for accordions and polkas.

I'm already looking forward to next year. "E-I-E-I-E-I Oh!"



Polka King, Walter Ostanek, had the crowd of Conestoga students in a frenzy at Conestoga's Oktoberfest celebrations at the Queensmount arena, on Oct. 12.

(Photo by Dwight Irwin)

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For laughs, Meet The Parents

By Dwight Irwin

Poor Ben Stiller, he seems to get dumped in in all his movies.

Meet the Parents, the newest release from Universal Studios, is the story of Gregory Focker (Stiller) desperately trying to get the approval of his girlfriend's father Jack Byrnes (Robert De Niro), so he can propose to his girlfriend Pam (Teri Polo).

Stiller played a character who seemed to be on the edge of insanity by the end and he played it to perfection. His facial expressions alone can bring a laugh from the most uptight person.



De Niro played an excellent over-protective father and had you wondering how he'd try to ruin Greg next. Whether he was accusing Greg of being a pot-head or making him lie about milking cats ... yes cats, De Niro was the definition of a terrifying father-in-law.

While Greg fought for Jack's

approval he managed to destroy the urn that held the ashes of Jack's mother on which the Byrnes' beloved cat Mr. Jinx then defecated.

He almost managed to single-handedly ruin Pam's sister's wedding by setting fire to the backyard. He left a toilet running, which overflowed the septic tank, leaving ankle-deep waste where the wedding was to take place the next day. He also lost Jinx and replaced him with another cat that destroyed the bride's wedding dress.

Anything that could go wrong did. The pressure forced Greg to chew pack after pack of Nicorette

gum, because Jack thought smoking showed weakness and Greg wanted to look strong to Jack.

Predictably, Pam stuck by Greg through all the trouble, until she found out how Greg had lied to the family about the fire and the fake cat. Of course, in the movies, things always work out.

The mayhem in Meet the Parents was somewhat predictable, but the movie managed to get through these parts with the huge amounts of subtle hilarity it offered.

Some of the funniest parts had little to do with the actual plot. They included the family teasing Greg about being a male nurse,

finding out his given name is Gaylord Focker, or Jack realizing what Pam's name would be if she married Greg (Pamela Martha Focker).

Greg also managed to break the bride-to-be's nose while playing volleyball in a pool the day before her wedding, all while wearing a borrowed Speedo a child couldn't squeeze into.

Sometimes it's the little things that bring the most laughs.

These little things made Meet the Parents a must-see for any comedy lover.

If you like to laugh see Meet the Parents. You won't be disappointed.

Romantic Dr.T a cinematic dud

By Tracy Ford

Another romantic comedy hit theatres on the weekend and like many other films in its genre, Dr. T and the Women won't have people running for tickets.

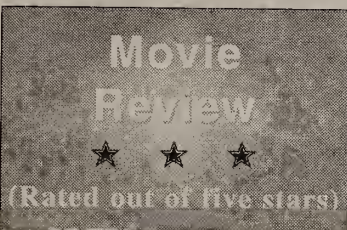
It's hard to believe that Richard Gere is doing another movie which doesn't promise a big box-office return similar to *Autumn in the Park*, where he starred with Wynona Rider.

Besides the movie's unique plot and hilarious arrangement of characters, the movie fails as even a passable comedy. There is much better stuff coming out in theatres. Dr. T and the Women doesn't come close to reeling in the big bucks.

In this flick, Dr. Sullivan Travis, played by Gere (*Runaway Bride*, *Pretty Woman*), is a rich, successful gynecologist in Dallas, whose life is ruled by women. But Dr. T doesn't mind because he loves them.

He tries to accommodate everyone's needs and ends up overlooking his schedule and slowly losing his calm, composed exterior.

Mix that with his daughter's upcoming wedding and Dr. T finds himself spending more time at his country club where he meets the easy-going golf pro, Bree, played



by Helen Hunt (*As Good As It Gets*, *Twister*).

Surrounded by a cast of big name performers like Shelley Long, Kate Hudson, Farrah Fawcett and Liv Tyler, Gere and Hunt star in what appears as a well-oiled movie production.

Many of the women with bit parts were locals from Dallas where the movie was shot, who were told to improvise their scenes, a move, which director Robert Altman, did entirely on the fly.

The opening scene was filmed in one shot creating a certain buzz similar to one in an overbooked doctors' office. Although this type of cinematography isn't unknown to Hollywood, the technique blends in well with the entire film, setting a mood for Dr. Travis's life.

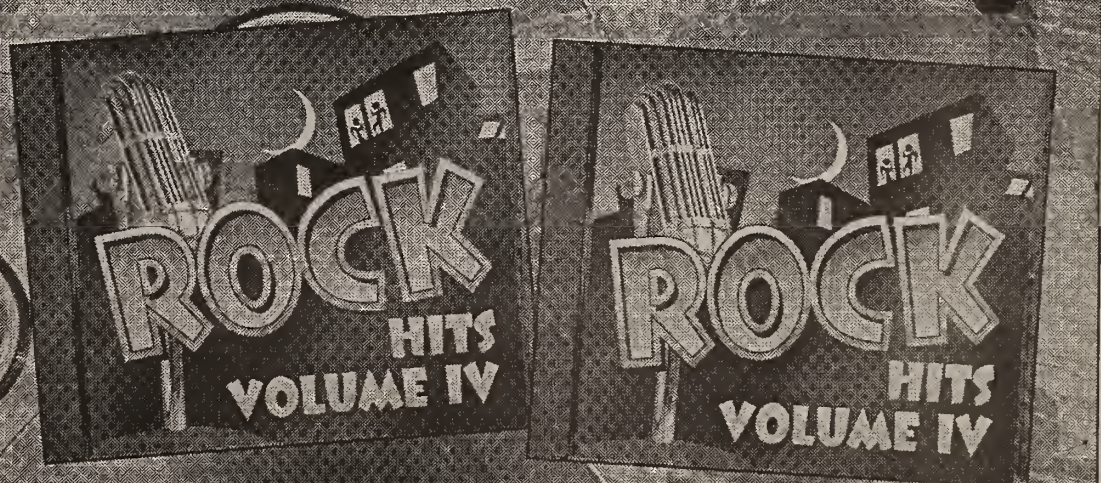
All in all, the movie is humorous at times, but generally it can be categorized as part of the same old romantic comedies of the '90s.

Hollywood's big winners of the week

RANK	TITLE
First	Meet the Parents - \$21.1 million
Second	Remember the Titans - \$13 million
Third	Lost Souls - \$7.9 million
Fourth	The Ladies Man - \$5.4 million
Fifth	The Contender - \$5.3 million

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McSorley's biggest penalty of all

By Derek Lester

Well, the Marty McSorley trial is complete and the verdict is out. Guilty.

McSorley has been taking penalties his whole career, and this high-sticking incident to Donald Brashear's head should have stayed within the game. There was no reason for the law to come into this matter.

If the incident had been a lot more severe, in that Brashear could not play hockey again, then maybe the law could come in. Brashear, as an enforcer, has already scored two goals in the Vancouver Canucks first three games of this season, which is a career high pace for him.

Brashear is also still fighting, like usual, and still taking punches to the head, so he couldn't have been too badly injured with his concussion. If Eric Lindros takes one good knock to the head, he misses half a season, and his brother Brett had to

retire at a young age because of concussions.

If the law is going to start coming into play in the hockey arena, as it has a couple of times now, players will probably start being charged with assault for fighting. If that ever happens, there will be no need for the enforcer, and those guys will have to go looking for a new job because they will not have a job in the National Hockey League.

Many fans have mixed emotions about the verdict. Of course the loyal McSorley fans will support him, and Boston Bruin fans will as well, but other fans think he got what he deserved.

Players around the NHL are not in favour of the verdict, especially other enforcers.

McSorley was found guilty of assault with a weapon and given an 18-month conditional discharge, which means he is on probation for 18 months. He is also not allowed to play in any games Brashear plays.

McSorley is 37 years old, and really, how many years does he have left in the NHL? At his age, he may play two more seasons and missing a couple of games against Brashear will give the aging defenceman much needed rest.

McSorley has been taking penalties his whole career, and this high-sticking incident to Donald Brashear's head should have stayed within the game.

Out of all of this, McSorley received no jail time and he will not have a criminal record. So, the court's verdict is basically nothing.

What was the point in wasting the court's time for that verdict?

The whole procedure was a big

waste of time and money for the people who went to the trial. After 18 months are up, all the criminal rulings of the court will be over with, and McSorley can basically start to really enjoy his retirement from the NHL.

The NHL handled the situation well enough. The NHL gave McSorley a 23-game suspension. He has to apply for reinstatement to the league if he wants to play again.

McSorley's punishment was a lot more severe than the one handed to the New Jersey Devils' Scott Niedermayer. He hit the Florida Panthers' Peter Worrell in the head with his stick and only received a 10-game suspension.

This incident even happened after the McSorley incident occurred. Granted, Brashear missed some games with a concussion and Worrell was not injured, but if Niedermayer was an enforcer, like McSorley, he would have probably received almost the same punish-

ment from the league as McSorley did. Tie Domi probably would have.

Why didn't Niedermayer have to go to court? He hit a man in the head with his stick, the same thing McSorley did. If Niedermayer's reputation was like McSorley's, maybe he would have.

After Niedermayer's 10-game suspension was over, Niedermayer and the Devils faced the Panthers in the first round of the playoffs, en route to winning the Stanley Cup.

McSorley is known as a tough guy around the NHL, and that has been his reputation ever since he came in. In his 17-year career he has 359 points and 3,381 penalty minutes in 961 games.

It is not right to hit a man in the head with a hockey stick, but it has happened before, and even though no one wants to see it happen again, it probably will. This incident was not right, but there was no reason for it to go to court.

Condors snap three-game losing streak

By Trevor Hilker

Conestoga Condors' Julie Durham crossed the plate in the bottom of the seventh inning to defeat Seneca 5-4 on Oct. 11, ending the women's fastball team's three-game losing streak.

Conestoga shortstop Judy Wolfe had a great game hitting two singles and a triple, earning a walk and scoring two runs.

The nine runs came in the first, second, fourth, fifth and seventh innings.

Conestoga opened the scoring in the bottom of the first on a RBI single by Kristi Freiburger. Seneca replied with two runs in the top of the second on RBI singles to Tracy Skeoch and Chris MacLeod.

Conestoga took the lead in the bottom of the fourth on a one-run triple by Lindsay Harrison and a two-run double by Lori Walden.

Seneca tied the game in the top of the fifth with back-to-back RBI doubles by Sarah Morrison and Carey Wells.

Conestoga won the game in the bottom of the seventh when Durham hit a leadoff triple to right centrefield. She advanced home on the throw to third base by the centrefielder. Freiburger recorded the victory by pitching all seven innings.

Head coach Mitch Keirstead was impressed with the

Condors' play against Durham. He said it was clear that they could compete with the league's best.

The three-game losing streak started, ironically, on Sept. 28 in Seneca as the Condors fell in an 8-7 loss.

Seneca took a 6-1 lead after three innings due to the Condors' sloppy defence. Conestoga battled back to take the lead 7-6 until the bottom of the seventh when, with two outs, the ball was dropped on a routine pop fly bringing in the game-tying and game-winning runs.

Conestoga shortstop Judy Wolfe had a great game hitting two singles and a triple, earning a walk and scoring two runs.

Freiburger got tagged for the loss after relieving starter Lindsay Teeter.

The Condors then travelled to Mohawk on Oct. 3 where they got shelled 10-0.

The Condors were down just 3-0 in the fifth, which turned to 10-0 by the end of the fifth due to a few fielding errors and a couple of well-hit balls. Freiburger got hit for the loss, again.

The Condors losing streak continued on Oct. 5 as Durham defeated Conestoga 7-2.

The undefeated Durham Lords proved to be mortal that night as they gave up two runs on seven hits including three hits by Condor first baseman Lori Walden. Walden's base-running error in the sixth inning ended all hopes for the Condors. Freiburger was handed the loss.

Claiming the provincial title is the Condor's goal

By Derek Lester

A provincial title is the goal for the Conestoga Condors varsity hockey team this season, says Condor coach Ken Galerno.

"I'm anticipating that if we can get some consistent goaltending, we should be able to contend for the provincial title," he said. "I'm really shooting for a provincial championship."

Galerno is impressed with how fast this year's team has come together. He has already been able to set up a couple of lines and assign some specific roles for some players.

The team was undefeated in their exhibition schedule with four wins and one tie.

Rookies will play a big part on this year's team, as not many players from last year are back, and that includes both goalies.

"I have five returning players, and a couple of those guys are very key to the team," said Galerno.

"I've managed to pick up a really nice nucleus of new, young players that are really keeping the pace up."

"Given the fact we are hosting the nationals, it is pretty important that we put a good product on the ice."

*Ken Galerno,
Condor coach*

The team did not have a good season last year finishing fifth in a division of six teams. They did not make the playoffs because only the top four teams in the division do.

"We didn't have a good year last year at all," Galerno said. "We weren't as strong talent wise as we are this year."

Galerno said there were a lot of breakdowns in the program last year that he hopes to solve this year.


"We were a fifth place team last year, and that's really where we deserved to be based on the way we performed and the way we executed, and we obviously want to do a lot better on that this year," he added.

Conestoga College is also hosting the national championships for college hockey this year, but in Galerno's three years coaching at Conestoga, home ice has not always been an advantage.

"In my experience here, home ice has not particularly been an advantage for us," he said. "With a 15-game schedule, you don't have a lot of games to even get used to your own barn."

Galerno said it will be nice that the team will get to sleep in their own beds and play in their usual surroundings, but in terms of their rink, he doesn't mind playing on the road.

"Given the fact we are hosting the nationals, it is pretty important that we put a good product on the ice," he added.



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